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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Muthiah, et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/982,342 )  
Filed: October 18, 2001 )  
For: HIGHLY ABSORBENT PRODUCTS )  
AND PROCESS FOR MAKING )  
SUCH PRODUCTS )

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUNE 8, 2004  
Michael H. White 6/8/04  
Signature Date of Signature

AMENDMENT

## MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the outstanding Office Action of April 23, 2004.

In such Office action, claims 1-24, 28, 34-36, 44, 50-54, 58-63, 69-72, and 75-80 were withdrawn from consideration. It is pointed out that claims 28, 34, 35, and 44 were grouped with the product invention elected in Applicant's Response to the Restriction Requirement filed on January 13, 2004. Thus, Applicant respectfully believes that claims 28, 34, 35, and 44 should have been examined. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the withdrawal of such claims and to determine the patentability of these claims. Applicant has separately argued below that such claims are patentable in view of the grounds of the rejection applied to the other elected product claims.